

The Recipe - Matthew 4:17-22
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

I make the world's best chocolate chip cookie. Really, its true. I know, you want me to prove it, but that gets a little complicated. Making a couple hundred cookies for this morning is a bit much, plus, I am trying to get healthy and every time I make them I eat about a dozen cookies worth of dough. But if you don't believe me, ask my kids. They will shout a hearty, "Amen." Great cookies don't begin in a package, or with ready made dough, or really even from a recipe from a book. To get a great chocolate chip cookie we have to start with an actual vision for what that cookie should be like. Goey on the inside, not fluffy, not crunchy. Yet a crisp outer layer with the bottom of the cookie firm, a sweetness that blends and offsets the chocolate. Nuts, are you insane! We are not monsters. It shouldn't just fold over like a wet paper towel, but it should bend easily, and then melt in your mouth. So I started with a couple recipes, adjusted, changed, and developed until I came up with my own. The only people I have shared the recipe with are my kids with the threat to be removed from our will if they share it with anyone but their spouses and children.

In the Great Commission, Jesus commanded His followers with their central task, to go and make disciples of all nations. Every church I have attended or served has quoted this commission, often over and over again. In fact, I do believe Matthew 28:18-20 has been the most quoted text in my church experience, probably including Genesis. So, we know we are supposed to go make disciples, and we get excited about this. Yet, do we really know what we are making? What is authentic discipleship, and what will it look like in the life of an individual and a church? Can we define discipleship clearly? If not, how in the world can we know what it means to authentically make disciples? In most of my experience, our passion was to make disciples, but churches did the equivalent of using Chips Ahoy cookies, taking a pre-packaged program structure provided by a denomination or mega church and did it at their church. Or we used pre-packaged dough after reading the newest book from the trendiest growing church. But most of these efforts didn't start with a the simple question of the true nature of authentic discipleship.

This was not a problem for the original band of 12 who followed Jesus. These men were living their lives, doing their jobs, going about in the world as ordinary Jewish men, and then they heard a voice call out to them. His preaching was simple, God's Kingdom had arrived, so repent. Turn from whatever you are doing, from your sinful ways, and from any self-salvation experiment and follow Jesus. Individually, the call was "Follow me!" a loving commission from the Messiah. For the first four of these men, they heard the voice of Jesus, left their jobs, their business, even their family inheritance and followed Jesus. But this was only the beginning, it led to a three year small group experience in which Jesus invested Himself in this band of brothers, loving them deeply, teaching them from the Scriptures, doing ministry and life with them. First, Jesus did everything and they watched, but eventually He included them in His love for the masses, and finally He sent them to go do it and report back. Yet, their world was imploded when their Rabbi was arrested and crucified. In the wake of the resurrection the whole plan finally made sense, and Jesus commission clear. They were to reproduce the call to follow and the investment in other people's lives just like Jesus had done for them. But they were not to make followers of Peter, Andrew, James, and John. They were to call people to follow Jesus, to repent and follow.

So what is a disciple? For this series we will be working from a simple definition of a disciple. While there are lots of other definitions, and many of them are amazing, we

pull this from Jesus words to His disciples. ***A disciple is a follower of Jesus who is ever growing in their application of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.*** In other words, a disciple is a person who has repented and turned to follow Jesus, and is growing in their love for God, love for neighbor, and their participation in God's mission around them and to the nations. This was what happened to the first 12 (well, one of them didn't quite understand Jesus' mission and his call), and what we hope will happen for you as you are at Genesis. So, now that we have a definition, a clear understanding of what the "perfect cookie" looks like, the next step is to make sure we have the right ingredients, mix them correctly, and bake them at the right temperature. Our next 11 sermon or so will look at these ingredients and show the ways Genesis already is or hopes to invest these things in each person, and will show why each of these ingredients is important for you as a follower of Jesus.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Psalm 89	Psalm 90	1 Corinthians 1	1 Corinthians 2	1 Corinthians 3	1 Corinthians 4	1 Corinthians 5

Reading from this past week: Matthew 4:17-22

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Romans 3:21-26

Family Worship

Song - *Lord I Need You*

<https://youtu.be/LuvfMDhTyMA?si=XnINEQx9fIGRRCo8>

Gospel Project

Unit: Peter's Ministry

Story: Peter Preached in Jerusalem

Big Picture Question: Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus?

Answer: We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe the good news.

Scripture: Acts 2

New City Catechism

Question 5: What else did God create?

Answer: God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.

Verse: Genesis 1:31

Scripture

Matthew 4:17-22

- What does verse 17 tell us was the first and central message from the preaching of Jesus? How is this verse connected to the call of these four men?
- What did it mean when Jesus said, "Follow me?" What do these words mean for us today?
- What is a disciple? How would you define discipleship? How can we know if a person is truly a follower of Jesus?

Prayer

*Pray that our church would be filled with authentic followers of Jesus.

*Pray for abortion and issues of life.